

**Vision 2020 Environment Task Group
May 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Sustainable Arlington
Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor**

Present: David Landskov, Shelly Dein, DeAnne Dupont, Charlotte Milan, Scott Samenfeld, Janice Pare, Gail McCormick, Downing Cless.

Coverage of Sustainable Arlington table at Feast of the East on Saturday, June 14. DeAnne, David, Gail and Brucie. Should the Food Recovery Project and Sustainable Arlington share one table?

Sustainability at the local level includes economic sustainability of local businesses. East Arlington businesses are very concerned about the financial impact of the Mass. Ave. rebuild project which starts this summer.

Ideas for speakers at future Sustainable Arlington meetings: (1) Audubon on Natural Security, (2) Mass Mobility's Theadora Fisher, in combination perhaps with someone from Arlington's Transportation Advisory Committee, (3) Ben Barkan, Home Harvest, (4) Town Engineer Wayne Chouinard on Storm Water Management

Environment Working Group report. (Two Sustainable Arlington members, Shelly Dein and Ryan Katofsky, belong to the Town of Arlington's Environment Working Group.)

- The Town applied for just under \$250,000 to pay for energy efficiency improvements at the Ottoson and other public buildings. Awards will be announced in June.
- The State just issued Request For Proposal re clean energy resiliency, encouraging municipalities to address infrastructure access in emergencies, and diesel- and renewable-powered backup generators.
- MA DOER "Pathways to Zero Net Energy" program has just been unveiled. Goal: municipal properties developed under this program won't consume more energy than they produce.

The "Pathways to Zero Net Energy" announcement led to discussion of renovating or rebuilding Arlington High School. How will long-term efficiency and energy concerns be addressed? DeAnne noted that Minuteman High School is just finishing a feasibility study for its building, looking at building all new vs. rehabbing the existing facility, vs. a mixture of new building and rehab.

Announcements:

Sustainable Arlington co-sponsored two recent Arlington Community Education classes: May 3, "Soil Health," taught by Ben Barkan and May 10, "Planning a Vegetable Garden," taught by Adam Monroy, both of Home Harvest. Bruce attended both classes, thought they were a good fit with Sustainable Arlington's mission, and recommends that Sustainable Arlington co-sponsor more classes by Ben and his team.

At least four Sustainable Arlington members volunteered at the Town's May 10, Community Collection Day at Town Yard, helping to take in clothing, shoes, sneakers, household goods and books.

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee has two candidates for the Co-Chair positions.

The Vision 2020 End of Year celebration is scheduled for June 12, 6-8:30 pm. True Story Theater, an Arlington performance group that has collaborated with Sustainable Arlington and the Food Recovery Project over the last year, will perform. Arlington's Central School/Senior Center, 27 Maple St.

Respectfully submitted, Brucie Moulton